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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,026	08/22/2003	Cynthia L. Martin	42P16835	9271

7590 04/26/2005

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EXAMINER
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LEA EDMONDS, LISA S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

DATE MAILED: 04/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/646,026	Applicant(s) MARTIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Lisa Lea-Edmonds	Art Unit 2835	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/22/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement filed 08/22/03 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rabinovitz (6853546). With respect to claims 1-4, 7, and 8, Rabinovitz teaches a computer subassembly (110, 610) comprising a frame (111); supports secured to the frame (111) for inserting a plurality of information storage drives (120, 122, 611); a bulkhead component (130) mounted to the frame (111); a plurality of bulkhead connectors (131, 151) mounted on the bulkhead component (130), each for

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engaging with a respective drive connector on a respective storage drive when the respective storage drive is inserted; an electronic board (133); a plurality of board connectors (134) on the board, each board connector (134) being connected to a respective bulkhead connector (131, 151), wherein the bulkhead connectors (131, 151) and the board connectors (131, 151) are serial ATA connectors (131, 151), further comprising a plurality of flexible signal cables interconnecting a respective board connector with a respective bulkhead connector, wherein the flexible cables are serial ATA cables, further comprising a computer processor; and a memory, the board connectors (134) being coupled to the computer processor and the memory as claimed (see for example figures 1-24). With respect to claims 13 and 14, Rabinovitz teaches a computer subassembly (110, 610), comprising a frame (111); a bulkhead component (130) mounted to the frame (111); a plurality of serial ATA bulkhead connectors (131, 151) mounted on the bulkhead component (130); supports secured to the frame (111); a plurality of serial ATA storage drives (120, 122, 611), each inserted on a respective support; a plurality of serial ATA drive connectors, each mounted to a respective serial ATA storage drive (120, 122, 611) and each being connected to a respective serial ATA bulkhead connector (131, 151) due to insertion of the respective storage drive; an electronic board (133); a plurality of serial ATA board connectors (134) on the board, each serial ATA board connector being individually connected to a respective serial ATA bulkhead connector, further comprising a plurality of flexible signal cables interconnecting a respective board connector (134) with a respective bulkhead connector (131, 151) as claimed (see for example figures 1-24).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. Claims 5, 6 9-12, and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over as to claims 5, 6 9-12, and 15-19, Rabinovitz teaches a computer subassembly comprising a frame, bulkhead component, a plurality of serial ATA bulkhead connectors, supports, a plurality of serial ATA drive connectors; an electronic board; a plurality of serial ATA board connectors; a plurality of flexible signal cables as claimed (see the above 102 rejection). However, Rabinovitz lacks a clear teaching of the bulkhead component having mounting openings and a plurality of fasteners as claimed. It is the position of the examiner of record that mounting openings as well as fasteners would be inherent to a bulkhead component, as present manufacturing practices do not include the bulkhead connector as an integral part of the manufacturing process. Therefore the bulkhead connectors will have to be assembled and later fastened, in some manner, to the bulkhead component. The present process employees openings and fasteners as claimed. However, if applicant disagrees, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the bulkhead component to include openings and fasteners, which would be use to mount the bulkhead connectors thereon.

***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please note the teachings of Rabinovitz (6856508), Carteau

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(6292360), Konshak et al. (6862173), Curtis et al. (20030011981), Peeke et al. (6850410) and Bicknell et al. (6831831).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lisa Lea-Edmonds whose telephone number is 571-272-2043. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Field can be reached on (571) 272-2800, ext 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Lisa Lea-Edmonds*  
Lisa Lea-Edmonds  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2835

2005-04-22